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Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child
Seventy-first session

Summary record of the 2076th (Chamber A) meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 19 January 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Aldoseri

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Consideration of reports of States parties (*continued*)

Second periodic report of Zimbabwe (CRC/C/ZWE/2; CRC/C/ZWE/Q/2 and Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the Zimbabwean delegation took places at the Committee table.*

2. **Mr. Parirenyatwa** (Zimbabwe), noting that the State party's second periodic report covered the period 1996-2009 and referring to the State party's reply to the list of issues raised by the Committee, said that the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission had been established under section 242 of the 2013 Constitution. The Commission had taken over the human rights mandate of the Office of the Public Protector, formerly known as the Office of the Ombudsman. Commissioners were appointed by the President from a list submitted by the Parliamentary Standing Rules and Orders Committee.

3. The Government had been conducting capacity-building workshops on the Convention for professionals and communities working with children and awareness-raising programmes with various communities. Activities were, however, still quite fragmented and suffered from inadequate coordination. The Government had therefore produced a draft child rights policy aimed at improving coordination of the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of international and regional conventions on children's rights. Part of the process involved aligning various pieces of legislation with the Constitution. Some 400 acts of Parliament had been identified for that purpose. About 300 of those had been dealt with under the General Laws Amendment Bill, which was still before Parliament. The Government was committed to ensuring that the process was completed within a reasonable time.

4. Section 81, paragraph 1, of the Constitution defined a child as a boy or girl under the age of 18 years; previously, there had been conflicting definitions. Under the Bill of Rights in the Constitution, the death penalty was not imposed on any person who had been under the age of 21 years at the time that the offence concerned had been committed. Under the Termination of Pregnancy Act, it was forbidden to terminate a pregnancy, except where the pregnancy endangered the health of the mother or in the case of rape or incest. Where children considered that their freedom of thought, conscience or religion was violated, they could, under the Children's Act, make a complaint direct to the authorities.

5. The Constitution guaranteed the right of every child who was a citizen of Zimbabwe by birth — where either parent was a citizen — to the prompt provision of a birth certificate, under the new computerized procedure. On attaining the age of 16 years, a child was issued with a national identity card.

6. The Social Welfare Assistance Act made provision for parents facing difficulty in carrying out their responsibilities by enabling them to apply for State assistance. It was a cause for concern that, according to the Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey of 2010-2011, more than one quarter of children were not living with either parent. In the case of adopted children, periodic reviews were conducted during the first five years of adoption in order to assess whether the child had adapted to his or her new environment.

7. Children under 5 years of age were exempt from user fees in the health service. Particular efforts were made to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Malnutrition and malaria were still major problems. The national malaria control programme, with support from various partners, was implementing a range of

interventions, as a result of which the malaria incidence rate had fallen. It was regrettable that the proportion of births attended by skilled personnel was only 66 per cent.

8. The Constitution provided that children must be given free basic education. Zimbabwe had made significant progress towards eradicating illiteracy. In 2005, the government had adopted a policy to introduce early childhood development classes at every primary school. The dropout rate from primary and secondary school in 2013 amounted to 9 per cent.

9. The Government had special protection measures in place for children in situations of emergency, such as refugees, displaced children and children in conflict with the law. It had incorporated the provisions of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, to which it adhered strictly. There were currently no displaced children in Zimbabwe.

10. Children below the age of 7 years were deemed to lack criminal capacity. A child between the ages of 7 and 14 years was presumed to lack capacity to form the intention to commit a crime. The Government was, however, considering raising the age of criminal responsibility from 7 to 12 years, in line with the Convention. Children below the age of 2 years whose mothers had been convicted and incarcerated accompanied their mothers to prison. A total of 33 such children were currently with their mothers in prison.

11. The use of dangerous drugs or dealing in them was an offence, but no child had been arrested for drug trafficking during the period under review. As for sexual exploitation and abuse, the National Baseline Survey on Life Experiences of Adolescents, conducted in 2011, had revealed that 9 per cent of females and 2 per cent of males between the ages of 13 and 17 years had suffered sexual violence in the previous 12 months.

12. Despite the current economic setbacks, the Government remained committed to supporting and promoting children's rights and welfare. He appealed to the Committee to have regard to the situation of Zimbabwe. The enormity of the country's task should not be underestimated. The Government was, however, open to constructive suggestions.

13. **Ms. Sandberg** (Coordinator, Country Task Force), after congratulating the delegation on the adoption of the 2013 Constitution, asked what stage had been reached in the process of harmonizing the Children's Act with the Constitution. The Committee was not convinced that Zimbabwe had a comprehensive structure for implementing and monitoring the Convention; it was difficult to understand how the various bodies involved related to each other. She wondered when the Child Rights Policy would be submitted to the Cabinet and subsequently adopted. She also asked about the governance and structure of the National Programme of Action for Children, how it would enhance the coordination of activities under the Convention, and how the National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children tied in with other relevant plans and policies.

14. Noting that between 2012 and 2015 the budget for children's programmes had been cut by as much as 90 per cent, particularly for maternal and child health and for children in difficult circumstances, she asked for a further explanation and for the delegation's views on the prospects of an increase in the budget.

15. The Constitution contained a strong section on corruption, and in its replies to the list of issues the State party had acknowledged that there had been prosecutions in that connection, but the fact was that Zimbabwe was 156th out of 174 countries on the

Global Corruption Report of Transparency International and she wondered whether more resources would be made available for anti-corruption operations.

16. The State party had said that the best interests of the child were paramount, and she would welcome information on whether the laws of Zimbabwe reflected that approach. It appeared that the criteria for determining the best interests of the child were fluid, being left up to the decisions of individual judges. Yet, in a situation where parents were given long prison sentences, for example, she wished to know how the child's interests were protected and whether judges and other relevant officials were given any training in that regard.

17. The Committee was concerned that corporal punishment remained legal and common in the home, at school and in prisons. The Constitution prohibited violence, but corporal punishment was expressly permitted under many laws. Was there any hope that the practice would be totally prohibited? She wondered how it could be ended, and how awareness could be raised of the damaging effect of using violence against children. Parents and teachers often seemed to know no other way of disciplining children, and she asked whether alternative approaches could be promoted.

18. It was a matter of deep concern that sexual abuse was prevalent and, in particular, that one quarter of the victims were children aged less than 5 years. Various measures had been adopted, but she wondered how effective they had been. The problem might be simply a failure to implement the existing legal framework. In that connection, she would be grateful for further information on the Action Plan to End Rape and Sexual Violence and on whether any assessment of the Plan had been carried out. She asked how the Government sought to deal with the problem of the sexual harassment of girls by male teachers and pupils in schools.

19. The Committee was concerned that the Customary Marriages Act did not specify the minimum age of marriage but was used to promote certain cultural practices. Noting that the marriage age for boys was 18 years as against 16 years for girls, which was contrary to the Constitution, she asked whether the marriageable age for girls would be raised and whether the relevant provision would be included in the Customary Marriages Act. In practice, girls could marry under the age of 16 years; indeed, in the Apostolic Church, girls as young as 10 years old were married. The African Union Campaign to End Child Marriages in Africa sounded promising, and she would welcome further information. Lastly, she asked what action the State party proposed to take on such practices as polygamy, bride price, virginity testing and witch hunting, which were all prevalent.

20. **Mr. Guráň** (Country Task Force) said that he would appreciate further details on the structure and functioning of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and on the steps taken to ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles, including with regard to the appointment of members. He would also welcome information on the composition of the Thematic Group on Child Rights, on the nature of the complaints that it had handled and on efforts to raise awareness of the Group among children.

21. He wished to know whether the Committee's general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard had been translated into the State party's official languages and whether campaigns had been organized to raise awareness of the document among stakeholders, particularly children. It would also be useful to know what measures had been taken to disseminate the Convention among judges, prosecutors and police officers. Noting that some funding for capacity-building workshops was provided by foreign partners, many of whom had decided to reduce their contributions, he asked what assurances could be given about the provision of adequate training in the future.

22. The delegation should explain why the Government had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Apostolic Christian Council of Zimbabwe and why similar agreements had not been reached with other faith-based organizations. It should also describe efforts to increase the impact of the National Youth Council in schools and to gather comprehensive data disaggregated by a range of variables on the situation of children in the State party.

23. **Ms. Muhamad Shariff** (Country Task Force) said that she wished to know what measures had been adopted to prevent discrimination against vulnerable groups of children. In particular, the delegation should state whether the father of a child born out of wedlock had any guardianship rights, whether the father's name was recorded on the child's birth certificate and, if not, what consequences that had with regard to inheritance. The delegation should also comment on the use of flogging as a form of punishment for male juvenile offenders and on the lack of public facilities accessible to children with disabilities.

The meeting was suspended at 11 a.m. and resumed at 11.15 a.m.

24. **Ms. Msika** (Zimbabwe) said that steps were being taken to harmonize almost 300 domestic laws, including the Children's Act, with the Constitution and that the matter was at the top of the Government's agenda.

25. **Ms. Sibiya** (Zimbabwe) said that the process of aligning the Children's Act with the Constitution was well under way. The Government had held broad consultations with stakeholders, whose input had been used to shape the principles underpinning the revised Act. Children had been consulted separately from adults to ensure that they did not feel intimidated.

26. **Mr. Gwinji** (Zimbabwe) said that the aim of the draft Child Rights Policy was to strengthen coordination between the Government and its partners within the framework of the National Programme of Action for Children. Bodies tasked with implementation of the Programme would be established at provincial level, to encourage the active participation of all stakeholders. The Policy made provision for the creation of standing and ad hoc committees to address children's issues. The draft had been submitted to the Cabinet and would be considered in due course.

27. **Ms. Musiwa** (Zimbabwe) said that the National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children complemented and fed into the National Programme of Action for Children, through which the Government implemented, monitored and evaluated measures to protect children's rights.

28. **Ms. Manyanya** (Zimbabwe) said that government spending on child policies and programmes had fallen, mainly because of the country's declining economic performance, exacerbated by the imposition of sanctions and a reduction in the support received from international development partners. It had been necessary to make budget cuts across the board, but spending on children had not been disproportionately affected.

29. **Ms. Sandberg** said that she was aware of the challenges posed by the State party's economic situation. Nevertheless, she wished to know whether and how the Government was attempting to safeguard budgets for the provision of services to children.

30. **Ms. Manyanya** (Zimbabwe) said that, in the allocation of resources, priority was given to children's issues, particularly in the areas of education, health and social welfare.

31. **Ms. Msika** (Zimbabwe) said that the best interests of the child were taken into account in all matters of family law, including with regard to maintenance, custody,

guardianship and access, and notably in the Matrimonial Causes Act and the Guardianship of Minors Act.

32. **Mr. Rodríguez Reyes** asked whether it was possible to challenge or reverse a judgement passed without due consideration for the best interests of the child.

33. **Ms. Msika** (Zimbabwe) said that all judges were familiarized with international conventions during their training and were aware of their duty to respect the principle of the best interests of the child. There had not been any recorded cases in which they had failed to do so, but if they did, the children concerned would be entitled to lodge an appeal. The best interests of the child were also borne in mind during the sentencing of parents. Probation officers were tasked with investigating the specific aspects of each case and with submitting recommendations to judges.

34. **Ms. Manyanya** (Zimbabwe) said that the Government was committed to tackling corruption and, to that end, had set up the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission.

35. **Ms. Mufukare** (Zimbabwe), in reply to a question on corporal punishment, drew the Committee's attention to paragraphs 47 to 50 of the replies to the list of issues and said that, in schools, the practice was regulated by Statutory Instrument No. 362 of 1998, which would not be aligned with the Constitution until contested provisions of the latter that prohibited corporal punishment had been reviewed by the Constitutional Court. There had been instances in which unauthorized persons had administered corporal punishment in violation of the regulations. In that connection, disciplinary action had been taken against 15 teachers in 2012 and 36 in 2014. The increase could be attributed to greater awareness of the issue among children and parents. The Government's current focus was on ensuring adherence to the regulations in place and on encouraging other forms of positive discipline. Children could report suspected violations of their rights to guidance and counselling committees in schools, to the police, to NGOs and to a number of government and community-based bodies.

36. **Ms. Sandberg** said that she wished to know whether the State party intended to amend legislation that allowed for the use of corporal punishment and whether that practice was explicitly prohibited in schools. Noting that most parents in Zimbabwe considered corporal punishment to be the only adequate form of discipline for children, she requested information on awareness campaigns relating to alternative disciplinary measures. The Government should lead the way in changing attitudes in that regard.

37. **Mr. Rodríguez Reyes** said that he would be interested to know whether the use of corporal punishment was regulated in schools.

38. **Mr. Parirenyatwa** (Zimbabwe) said that the issue of corporal punishment was being discussed actively in society and that many parents believed that the practice should be abolished.

39. **Ms. Mufukare** (Zimbabwe) reiterated that the use of corporal punishment in schools was regulated by Statutory Instrument No. 362. Corporal punishment should be applied as a measure of last resort, could not be inflicted on girls, should only be carried out by the head of the school before a witness and should be recorded in a log book.

40. **Mr. Parirenyatwa** (Zimbabwe) said that alternative disciplinary measures were being discussed, including counselling and the setting of written assignments. The delegation would appreciate suggestions from the Committee in that regard.

41. **Ms. Musiwa** (Zimbabwe) said that all Government ministries were responsible for raising awareness about the comprehensive State support system for child victims

of sexual abuse. It was important that cases of abuse were promptly reported, in order to minimize risks to the health of the victims and ensure that children were removed from dangerous situations as quickly as possible. A culture of silence surrounded the issue of child sexual abuse in some parts of the country because, in cases where the abuser was the family's principal breadwinner, reporting him to the police could lead to a loss of income. However, the benefits of reporting were being highlighted in awareness campaigns and by childcare case workers and focal points trained in children's rights.

42. **Mr. Gwinji** (Zimbabwe) said that 90 per cent of community childcare workers had been trained in children's rights. They were involved in Family Clubs, where parents could discuss alternative discipline and measures to protect children from ill-treatment in the home.

43. **Mr. Parirenyatwa** (Zimbabwe) said that the practice of *lobola* was not quite the same as bride price but rather aimed to establish ties between the families of the bride and groom. It was considered completely acceptable by society.

44. **Ms. Musiwa** (Zimbabwe) said that the proportion of women marrying under the age of 15 years had decreased from 5.8 per cent to 2.4 per cent in the previous 30 years, but the issue remained an area of concern. Programmes were in place to raise awareness of the negative impact of child marriage among the most affected groups of the population, including apostolic sects. In that regard, memorandums of understanding had been drawn up not only with the Apostolic Christian Council of Zimbabwe but also with many other religious groups. Following the Bishops Dialogue on Child Marriage, the Government would be holding capacity-building workshops for apostolic ambassadors for children's rights. In addition, the Government had been addressing the issue of early marriage by working to alleviate poverty and prevent school dropout. The Girl/Young Women Empowerment Framework included campaigns against harmful religious and cultural beliefs, and the "18+" campaign had raised awareness among traditional leaders about laws prohibiting early marriage and the risks associated with that practice.

45. **The Chair**, speaking as a member of the Committee, asked whether the statistics provided related to marriage under the age of 15 or 18 years.

46. **Ms. Musiwa** (Zimbabwe) said that the statistics, taken from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, concerned marriage under the age of 15 years.

47. **The Chair**, speaking as a member of the Committee, said that she would welcome statistics relating to marriage under the age of 18 years.

48. **Ms. Aho Assouma** said that she wished to know whether virginity testing was compulsory and at what age it was carried out. She asked what happened to the girl in question if it was established that she was not a virgin and emphasized the negative impact that could have on the girl's mental health.

49. **Mr. Gwinji** (Zimbabwe) said that the proportion of women admitting to having been married under the age of 18 years had been 31.8 per cent in 2009 and 32.8 per cent in 2014.

50. **Mr. Parirenyatwa** (Zimbabwe) said that HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns had emphasized the importance of delaying sexual activity until the age of 18 years, and virginity testing had been proposed as a measure to verify that children were practising abstinence. However, the practice had not been pursued and was never carried out in formal settings.

51. **Ms. Msika** (Zimbabwe) said that the Thematic Group on Child Rights under the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission was not yet operational, but the Commission as

a whole could receive complaints from children. The Commission was an independent body that complied with the Paris Principles, and Commissioners received training in children's rights.

52. **Mr. Guráň** said that it would be interesting to know whether the Commission had received any complaints from children and how those complaints had been handled. He also asked whether the State party intended to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

53. **Ms. Sandberg** said that, as she understood it, the Commission had not yet been accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (ICC) as being in compliance with the Paris Principles.

54. **Ms. Msika** (Zimbabwe) said that there were no data available relating to complaints to the Commission made specifically by children. The Commission had applied for ICC accreditation and already complied fully with the Paris Principles. The ratification of the Optional Protocol would be discussed and an update provided at a later date.

55. **Mr. Gwinji** (Zimbabwe) said that the decline in donor support for children's programmes was due to an overall decline in resources. However, Zimbabwe received more support than many other countries, owing to the well documented success of its programmes, and the Ministry of Finance was looking at ways in which to maintain the progress achieved. While most data were disaggregated, they were currently held in separate ministerial databases, and measures were being taken to establish a centralized system.

56. **Ms. Charumbira** (Zimbabwe) said that Junior Councils gave young people throughout Zimbabwe a platform to share knowledge and experience and articulate their views on issues concerning them. The majority of members were aged between 16 and 18 years. Junior Councillors were actively involved in the budgeting processes of 14 local authorities, which enabled them to secure funding for their activities. Other youth forums included the National Junior Councils Association and annual conferences during which the Government emphasized the importance of children's involvement in decision-making processes. Local authorities were encouraged to increase children's participation in the development and implementation of child-friendly economic and social policies.

57. **Ms. Jiri** (Zimbabwe) said that the Marriage Act and the Customary Marriages Act would be revised in order to set the minimum age of marriage at 18 years, in line with the Constitution.

58. **Mr. Muchemenye** (Zimbabwe) said that children born out of wedlock were placed in the sole custody of the mother. The mother of the child held all the rights associated with guardianship and, consequently, only she could consent to having the details of the child's father included on the birth certificate.

59. **Ms. Aho Assouma** said that, according to statistics available, there seemed to be a delay between the registration of a child's birth and the issuance of the birth certificate. What exactly was the time frame for those two processes? The delegation should comment on whether it was in a child's best interests not to have his or her father's name on the birth certificate, what steps were being taken to ensure that birth certificates were issued for all children, particularly those in rural areas, whether awareness-raising programmes on the importance of birth certificates had been launched, and what was being done to provide stateless children born in Zimbabwe with citizenship.

60. **Mr. Muchemenye** (Zimbabwe) said that, as the law stood, a man was protected from being assigned a child whose paternity he had not acknowledged. Birth

registration took place at a decentralized level in order to ensure that the service was easily accessible, particularly to those in rural areas, and mobile registration services were also available. Media campaigns had been launched to raise awareness of the importance of birth registration.

61. **Mr. Gwinji** (Zimbabwe) said that births of children in health-care institutions could be registered and certificates issued within 24 hours. The disparity between the numbers of children whose birth was registered and of birth certificates issued was due to the fact that parents sometimes chose to delay obtaining a birth certificate until they enrolled their child in school, for which the certificate was compulsory.

62. **Ms. Jiri** (Zimbabwe) said, in response to Ms. Muhamad Shariff, that in cases of inheritance the Constitution prohibited discrimination against all children, including those born out of wedlock.

63. **Mr. Muchemenye** (Zimbabwe) said that by law a child must be registered within six weeks of his or her birth. Abandoned children whose births were not registered were the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. Such children were ensured a place of safety, their birth was registered, and they were granted nationality in the event of statelessness.

64. **Ms. Sibiya** (Zimbabwe) said that law enforcement officials received training in sign language in order to help children with disabilities who had suffered sexual abuse to report the crime. The Government was working with civil society organizations and international development partners in that regard, and awareness-raising campaigns had been launched to popularize the use of sign language among law enforcement bodies and other State departments dealing directly with children.

65. **Mr. Gurán** said that he wished to know whether families in which children lived solely with their grandparents, as was the case in 20 per cent of Zimbabwean households, received financial support. The delegation should comment on whether statistics were available on children living in care institutions, how such institutions were monitored, whether complaint mechanisms were in place for the children, and whether the institutions operated publicly or privately. He asked whether the Government was supporting alternative family care arrangements, whether programmes had been developed to train foster parents, whether foster parents received financial support, and whether Zimbabwe intended to ratify the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

66. **Ms. Sandberg** said that she would appreciate a comment on why children were prohibited from marching in celebration of Universal Children's Day, and on reports stating that children were forced to participate in political activities. In view of the fact that information on children accused of committing crimes or child victims of crime was published by the media, she asked what measures were taken to protect their right to privacy.

67. Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, primary education must be free for all students. However, neither primary nor secondary education was free in Zimbabwe owing to hidden costs, such as books and uniforms, and the recent introduction of examination fees. Besides the implementation of the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) programme, which was underfunded, how else was the Government tackling the issue? Moreover, the number of teachers had fallen in recent years, as had their working hours because of their need to supplement low incomes. She enquired what steps the Government was taking to improve the situation, how the Government intended to broaden investment in school infrastructure, particularly in rural satellite schools, whether private schools were regulated or monitored, and what measures had been introduced to prohibit schools from being used for political and

military purposes. Lastly, she asked what had been done to ensure that early childhood care was provided by qualified professionals.

68. **Ms. Muhamad Shariff** said that the majority of disabilities among children in Zimbabwe were preventable. She was concerned that the Constitution referred only to discrimination based on physical and not mental disability. The delegation should explain what services and medical support were available to children with disabilities, how early diagnosis of disabilities was being promoted, whether the position of childcare coordinator within the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare had been filled, and whether measures had been taken to employ more midwives and doctors. Infant mortality rates in Zimbabwe were high on account of significant gaps in the treatment of HIV/AIDS and the large number of preventable illnesses that children contracted. She would welcome information on policies and plans to address infant mortality and asked how the Government intended to improve access to health-care services in rural areas, whether there were plans to waive fees for child health care, how much money within the State budget was allocated to health-care services, whether the Government had adopted the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes, and whether measures had been taken to encourage members of the Apostolic Church to seek and accept conventional health-care services.

69. It would be helpful to have more information on the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy, including its effectiveness. In that connection, she asked whether adolescents could access such services on a confidential basis, particularly in cases of sexual abuse, whether the consent of parents was required and whether adolescents received information on contraception and sexually transmitted diseases. The delegation should comment on the fact that, under the Termination of Pregnancy Act, lengthy enquiries into cases of alleged rape could result in adolescent girls risking their lives by seeking terminations through unofficial channels. She would appreciate more details of the measures taken to tackle child poverty, and of how the Government was addressing the violation of children's rights following "Operation Murambatsvina".

70. Although comprehensive laws on juvenile justice were in place, their implementation was lacking. Law enforcement officers seemed not to be aware of the law, and limited assistance was available from the Directorate of Legal Aid. She wished to know whether an assessment had been made of the National Legal Assistance for Children Strategy, what the Government was doing to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 12 years, whether a comprehensive Juvenile Justice Bill had been drafted, whether complaint mechanisms had been established for children in detention, and whether alternative measures to the deprivation of liberty were being implemented. She asked why life imprisonment for children was not prohibited by law, what measures were being taken to prevent impunity for crimes against children, and whether the Pretrial Diversion Programme was still in place.

71. She was concerned by the high rate of child labour, despite its prohibition by law, as well as by the number of internally displaced persons whose rights were often violated during the resettlement process. The delegation should indicate whether the Government intended to compensate for loss of property and to improve access to basic infrastructure in such cases, what policies were in place to address the migration of unaccompanied children, and what support was available to those who were exposed to physical and sexual abuse on their journeys.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.